

DATE: September 21, 2020

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Marybeth Vergara, Project Analyst II

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 15: Consideration of a resolution approving a Very Small Proposition 68 Grant to From Lot to Spot for the Community Engagement for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center and Lower LA River projects

PROGRAM AREA: Rivers and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Technical Assistance

JURISDICTION: City of South Gate

PROJECT MANAGER: Marybeth Vergara/Joseph Gonzalez

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC Board authorize approval of a Very Small Grant to From Lot to Spot (FLTS) to conduct Community Engagement for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Cultural Arts Center and Lower LA River projects, in the amount of \$50,000.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Exhibit A: Lower LA River/Rio Hondo Confluence Project / Site Plan
 Exhibit B: Budget,
 Exhibit C: Tasklist & Timeline,
 Exhibit D: FLTS' Very Small Grant Program – Grant Application
 Exhibit E: FLTS' Grant Application Scored Review Sheet
 Exhibit F: Disadvantaged Communities Report (source: DWR's DAC Mapping Tool)
 Exhibit G: Project Connectivity Map

With the passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, the RMC established Proposition 68 grant program guidelines which provided for project applications to be submitted for funding consideration (RMC Resolution 2019-06).

On July 20, 2020, RMC Board approved the RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Small Grants Draft Program Guidelines ("Small Grants Program") which explain the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants with Proposition 1 and 68 funds underline with the Conservancy's mission through use of its programs (Resolution 2020-31), and provided the public the opportunity to provide feedback. Final Guidelines are being recommended for approval concurrently at the September RMC Board Meeting (Resolution 2020-35).

RMC received two allocations within both Proposition 1 and 68, one for the entire RMC territory and one for the Lower LA River (LLAR). The Small Grants program is funded through both allocations for Proposition 68 and only the LLAR allocation for Proposition 1, capped at 15% of each allocation. The

Guidelines further identify the additional requirements and evaluation criteria applicable to Proposition 1 and 68 funded grants, and criteria and application for the Very Small Grant Program. Minimum evaluation scoring threshold for Small and Very Small Grants is set at 70% total score.

The Small Grants Program is being prompted by the expressed need from many communities, NGOs, municipalities, and agencies to support more environmental and economic revitalization efforts that are being delayed and worsened by the pandemic crisis. RMC is seeking to make RMC grants and technical assistance more accessible and useable, especially by and for high-need and very high-need communities.

After review by RMC staff, this grant received a score of 8.5 out of a total 10 points or 85% and recommends funding of this project.

Project:	Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR	
Applicant:	From Lot to Spot (FLTS)	
Program area:	Lower Los Angeles River and Tributaries	
Project Type:	Technical Assistance	
Amount requested:	\$50,000	
Amount recommended funding:	\$50,000	
RIVER/TRIBUTARIES PLANNING PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY		
Factor	Project Score	Total Possible Points
1. Access	2	2
2. Environmental Justice	3	3
3. Outreach	1	1
4. Water/Habitat Benefit	3	1.5
5. Stakeholders/Partners/Matching Funds	1	1
TOTAL POINTS	10	8.5

The project is proposed by From Lot to Spot to develop a Covid-19 sensitive outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents—particularly focusing on monolingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers— for RHCAP projects and specifically the SELA Cultural Center, to ensure the SELA community is engaged on development of these projects.

Outreach activities will be documented and summarized into a report that can provide technical assistance to other local agencies and NGOs that are implementing LLARRP projects in Southeast LA Communities. Documentation will include list of key stakeholders and clear explanations of outreach activities and results.

Some ideas that have been successful in the past and ideas that have been developed/conceptualized as methods of engagement during times of coronavirus are:

- Social Media Townhalls,

- Online Surveys distribution,
- Project Briefings,
- Drive-In informational events,
- One-on-ones virtual meetings with community leaders and opinion influencers
- Exploring partnerships with other local agencies, non-profits, and/or community groups
 - Such entities as River in Action (RIA), Artist Guild, tribal groups, and others
- Round Table discussions,
- Social distance Tabling and Pop-up Events,
- Social distance Walk-and-Talk Site Tours, and
- Campaign-style outreach (such as lawn signs, use of QR codes, etc)

Goals of the project are to work towards building trust within the Southeast LA Community to be engaged on LLARRP projects and Rio Hondo Confluence Area Projects, specifically the SELA Cultural Center, and to ensure community feedback is heard and discussed as part of project development. Types of feedback will include the identification of community needs and interest related to Arts and Culture that contributes to the revitalization of the LA River. Outreach activities will be summarized into a technical assistance report that can be used as a resource by other local agencies and non-profits looking to engage and develop projects in the SELA region, especially during these unprecedented times.

Elements of the outreach tasks would seek to be done in collaboration with a number of environmental and community organizations. These groups may include River in Action (RIA), artist guild, tribal groups, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Latinas Art Foundation, Trust for Public Land, and various local homeowner associations in and near the city of South Gate. FLTS will consult with the City of South Gate, the Lower LA River Implementation Advisory Group (IAG), landowners and regulatory authorities, such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), in developing and coordinating outreach plans.

The estimated completion time for the outreach planning, implantation, and reporting process will take approximately 4.5 months, within the anticipated time period between September 2020-January 2021. This includes community engagement as well as engagement research and documentation for the final report, and administrative costs to close out of this grant.

In partnership with RMC, the City of South Gate and various community stakeholders, From Lot to Spot will conduct this outreach process which includes the following Scope of Work:

1. Project Management
2. Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy
 - a. Get updated on status of project with SELA Cultural Center Team, and discuss/coordinate outreach strategy and communications; familiarize with project status, team members, and timeline
 - b. Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy Development
3. Deployment of Community Outreach and Engagement Strategies
 - a. One-on-One and group meetings with outreach targets
 - b. Education strategies deployment
 - c. Deployment of community enhanced engagement strategies
4. Input and Support Strategies
 - a. FLTS will support the project teams in the dissemination and collection of digital surveys and other outreach tools, to ensure maximum SELA region exposure
 - b. Other input solicitation and project support building

5. Social Media Strategies
 - a. Collaborate with team on social media content development and deployment
6. LLAR Communities Engagement Report
 - a. Documentation of activities, summary and analysis of outreach strategies
 - b. Draft Report development; outline, draft text and images
 - c. Final LLAR Communities Engagement, Technical Assistance Report

If approved, the project will begin immediately and is anticipated to be completed by January 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND: Projects identified in the planning process for the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) were initiated by the passage of AB 530 which established a Lower Los Angeles River Working Group and generated opportunities for urban river enhancements that touch on integration of open space, housing, transportation, and business development.

One of the projects identified in the LLARRP was a Community Cultural Arts Center in Southeast Los Angeles near the confluence of the Rio Hondo (See Exhibit A). RMC, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles (Public Works) and other local and regional entities, was identified as the appropriate state agency to lead the development of the SELA Community Cultural Arts Center. The project will sit on a 7.8-acre site along the east bank of the Los Angeles River on a current County Flood Control District Maintenance Yard. The Cultural Center is envisioned as a public facility that offers spaces for art display and performance as well as arts education and spaces for community gatherings. The overall goal of the project is to create a facility that promotes and encourages participation in the arts and culture of the local community and beyond. The variety of artistic and community programs will foster opportunities for users to develop creative ideas and offer arts education opportunities to youth and adults.

The LLARRP was successful in being a community- and stakeholder-driven process, and subsequent development of projects should continue to engage and build trust within neighboring communities in accordance with LLARRP. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all, which is partially the impetus of this project.

The preliminary building program that forms the basis of the SELA Cultural Center Project is as follows:

- Building Programming (approximately 80,000 sq. ft.), includes:
 - Community/Cultural facilities
 - Music Program facilities
 - Visual Arts Program facilities
- Site Programming (approximately 108,000 sq. ft.)

Note that the preliminary building program is based on certain assumptions for Project and will need to be further defined.

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time. FLTS does this by creating much needed, community-designed greenspaces and engaging community members in the development of their communities. In order for the projects we build to be real catalysts for revitalization in these communities, FLTS ensures there is a holistic approach to community participation.

FISCAL INFORMATION: This action approves a technical assistance grant award to the non-profit organization, From Lot to Spot (FLTS), for a total amount of \$50,000 for the Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR. The performance period extends 4.5 months through January 31, 2021. Funding for this process will be allocated from the following statute of Proposition 68:

Proposition 68, Chapter 852 Statutes of 2017

Chapter 7 of Proposition 68, entitled "California River Recreation, Creek and Waterway Improvement Program," allocates one hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$162,000,000) for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Thirty-seven million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) of the funds available in Chapter 7 is allocated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code and Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000).

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

Section 32602: There is in the Resources Agency, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is created as a state agency for the following purposes:

- (a) To acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open-space, low-impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvement within the territory.
- (b) To preserve the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River consistent with existing and adopted river and flood control projects for the protection of life and property.
- (c) To acquire open-space lands within the territory of the conservancy.

Section 32604: The conservancy shall do all of the following:

- (a) Establish policies and priorities for the conservancy regarding the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River, and their watersheds, and conduct any necessary planning activities, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (b) Approve conservancy funded projects that advance the policies and priorities set forth in Section 32602.
- (d) To provide for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Section 32614: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (f) Recruit and coordinate volunteers and experts to conduct interpretive and recreational programs and assist with construction projects and the maintenance of parkway facilities.

Further, Section 32614 provides that: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (g) Undertake, within the territory, site improvement projects, regulate public access, and revegetate and otherwise rehabilitate degraded areas, in consultation with any other public agency with appropriate jurisdiction and expertise, in accordance with the purposes set forth in Section 32602. The conservancy may also, within the territory, upgrade deteriorating facilities and construct new facilities as needed for outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and interpretation, and natural resources protection. The conservancy may undertake those projects by itself or in conjunction with another local agency; however, the conservancy shall provide overall coordination of those projects by setting priorities for the projects and by ensuring a uniform approach to projects. The conservancy may undertake those projects with prior notification to the legislative body of the local agency that has jurisdiction in the area in which the conservancy proposes to undertake that activity.

Section 32614.5:

- (a) The conservancy may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of this division.
- (b) Grants to nonprofit organizations for the acquisition of real property or interests in real property shall be subject to all of the following conditions:
- (1) The purchase price of any interest in land acquired by the nonprofit organization may not exceed fair market value as established by an appraisal approved by the conservancy.
 - (2) The conservancy approves the terms under which the interest in land is acquired.
 - (3) The interest in land acquired pursuant to a grant from the conservancy may not be used as security for any debt incurred by the nonprofit organization unless the conservancy approves the transaction.
 - (4) The transfer of land acquired pursuant to a grant shall be subject to the approval of the conservancy and the execution of an agreement between the conservancy and the transferee sufficient to protect the interests of the state.
 - (5) The state shall have a right of entry and power of termination in and over all interests in real property acquired with state funds, which may be exercised if any essential term or condition of the grant is violated.
 - (6) If the existence of the nonprofit organization is terminated for any reason, title to all interest in real property acquired with state funds shall immediately vest in the state, except that, prior to that termination, another public agency or nonprofit organization may receive title to all or a portion of that interest in real property, by recording its acceptance of title, together with the conservancy's approval, in writing.
- (c) Any deed or other instrument of conveyance whereby real property is acquired by a nonprofit organization pursuant to this section shall be recorded and shall set forth the executor interest or right of entry on the part of the state.

LLARRP SIGNATURE PROJECTS



Source: Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, 2017

LLARRP RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE SIGNATURE PROJECT

LEGEND

CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

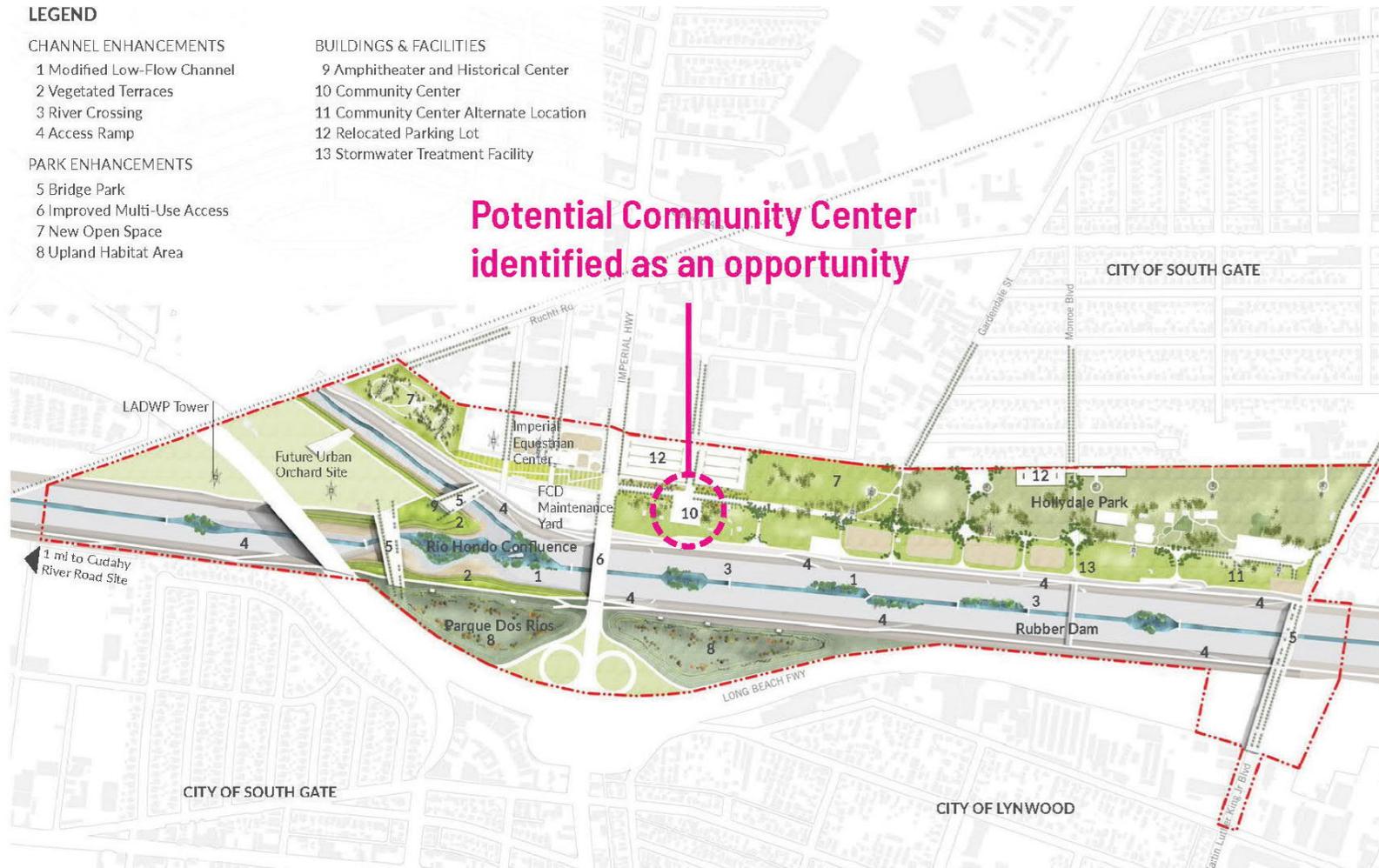
- 1 Modified Low-Flow Channel
- 2 Vegetated Terraces
- 3 River Crossing
- 4 Access Ramp

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

- 5 Bridge Park
- 6 Improved Multi-Use Access
- 7 New Open Space
- 8 Upland Habitat Area

BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

- 9 Amphitheater and Historical Center
- 10 Community Center
- 11 Community Center Alternate Location
- 12 Relocated Parking Lot
- 13 Stormwater Treatment Facility



Source: Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, 2017

SELA CULTURAL CENTER

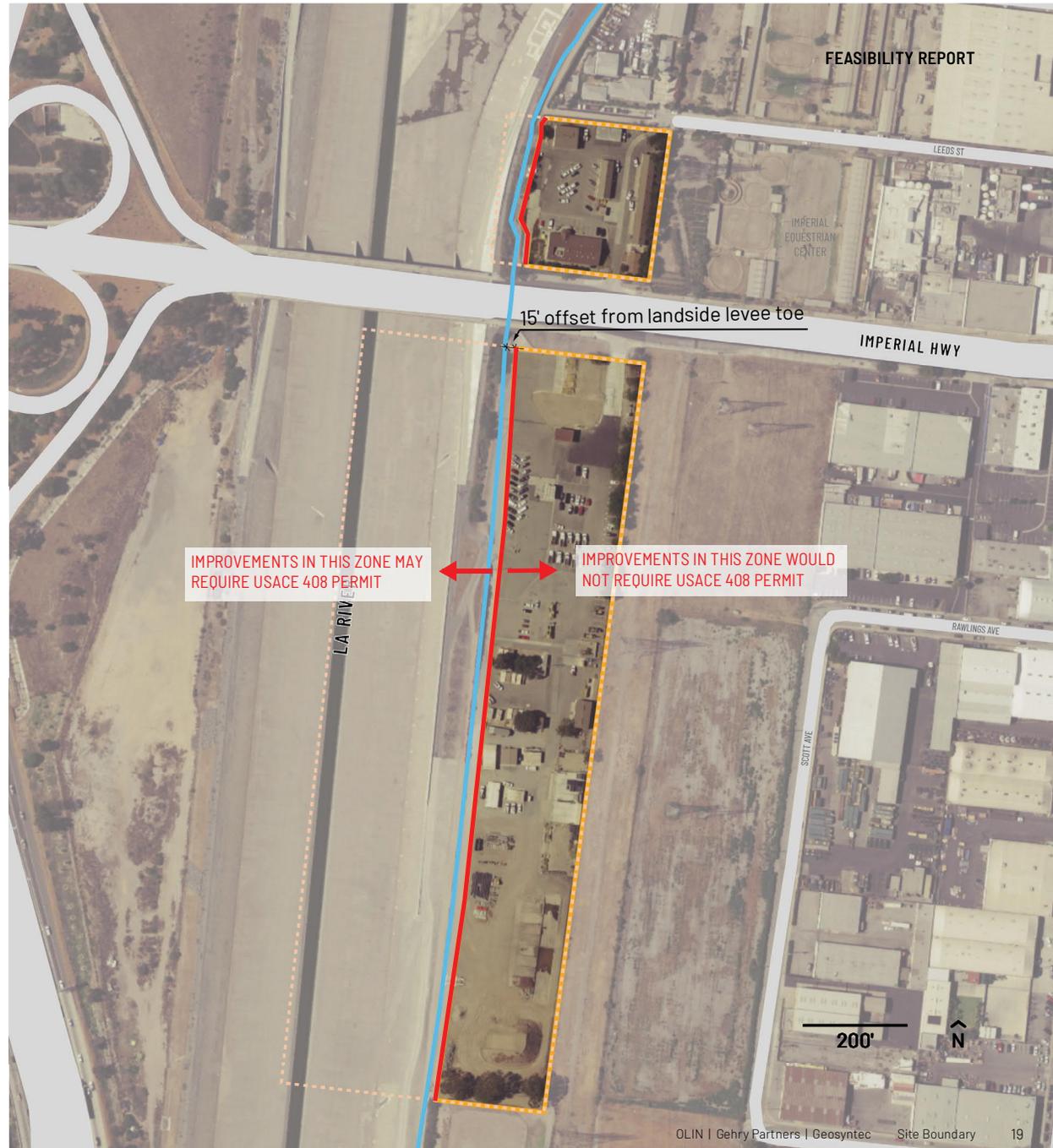
SITE BOUNDARY

(Site south of Imerial Hwy only)

LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- - - Parcel Boundary
- Levee Landside Toe

Source: OLIN; Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal, Assessor Parcels - 2015 Tax Roll, 2015; NAIP Aerial 2017



SELA CULTURAL CENTER

AERIAL VIEW



Grantee: From Lot to Spot

Project Name: Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

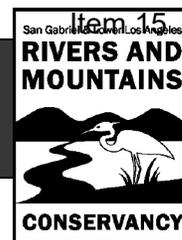
viviana@fromlottospot.org

RMC Total Budget Request: \$50,000

Work Plan Task Number and Name	RMC Grant Request	Matching Funds #1 RMC BA2018
Task #1 - Project Management	\$ 5,000	
Task #2 - Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy	\$ 2,145	\$ 208,860
Task #3 - Deployment of Community Outreach & Engagement Strategies	\$ 10,560	
One-on-Ones and group meetings with outreach targets		
Education Strategies Deployment		
Task #4 - Input and Support Strategies	\$ 9,900	
Input Solicitation and Project Support Building		
Task #5 - Social Media Strategies	\$ 2,475	
Collaborate on social media content development and deployment		
Task #6 - LLAR Communities Engagement Report	\$ 12,000	
documentation of activities, summary and analysis of strategies		
draft report		
final report		
Reimbursements	\$ 3,375	
graphic design/collateral materials		
travel/mileage		
canvassing		
copying and printing and misc		
social media		
room rental		
Subtotal	\$ 45,455	\$ 208,860
Indirect (10%)	\$ 4,545	
TOTAL REQUEST =	\$ 50,000	\$ 208,860

Grantee: From Lot to Spot					
Project Name: Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR					
Contact and Address: 2003 E 1st St, Los Angeles, CA 90033, viviana@fromlottospot.org					
RMC Total Budget Request: \$50,000					
RMC Tasklist and Timeline					
Performance Begin and End Date: 9/21/20 - 1/31/21					
Work Plan Task Number and Name	SEP 2020	OCT 2020	NOV 2020	DEC 2020	JAN 2021
Task #1 - Project Management					
Task #2 - Development of Community Engagement and Outreach Strategy					
Task #3 - Deployment of Community Outreach & Engagement Strategies					
Task #4 - Input and Support Strategies					
Task #5 - Social Media Strategies					
Task #6 - LLAR Communities Engagement Report					
Grant Closeout					

RMC VERY SMALL GRANT PROGRAM Grant Application Form



1. RMC Very Small Grant Program (under \$50,000). Which funding source?

- Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Lower LA River *
 Prop 68 (Park/Water Bond, 2018) Regionwide
 Prop 1 (Water Bond, 2014) Lower LA River *
**within 1.5 miles of Lower LA River or tributary*

2. Applicant Information:

Name of Applicant	Viviana Franco		
Title	Executive Director		
Name of Agency	From Lot to Spot (FLTS)		
Address	2003 E 1st St, Los Angeles, CA 90033		
Telephone No.	323-680-6937	Tele-Extension	
Email	viviana@fromlottospot.org		

3. Project Name (it is recommended that you include one/more of the following terms in the project name: Acquisition, Restoration, Development, Water Quality Improvement)(max. 50 characters):

Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

4. Project Description (150 words or less):

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time through a holistic approach to community engagement. FLTS seeks to engage and build trust within the Southeast LA (SELA) community in support of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan's (LLARRP) proposed projects, specifically the SELA Cultural Center project, a multi-disciplinary arts facility currently in design phase in the City of South Gate. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all. FLTS will develop an outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents, particularly focusing on mono-lingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers, and then deploy engagement treatments. Outreach activities will be documented, summarized, and analyzed for effectiveness in an Outreach Report.

5. Program Type:

- Urban Lands
 Rivers/Tributary Parkways
 Mountains, Hills and Foothills

6. Project Type (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Habitat Restoration |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Quality/BMP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Improvement—Water Supply/Storage |

7. Project Location:

Address:		City:
5535 Imperial Hwy., South Gate, California 90280		South Gate
County:	City District:	County Sup. District:
Los Angeles		2
Senate Dist:	Assembly Dist.:	Congressional Dist.:
33	63	44
Lat/Long:	Parcel No(s):	
33.9295, -118.1750	6234-012-900	

8. Will this project result in areas of restored or protected habitat?
 No (skip to question 10)
 Yes (fill in following information)

- Upland Habitat Acres: _____
 Riparian Restoration Acres: _____
 Coastal Wetlands Acres: _____
 Land Protection Acres: _____
 Oak Woodland Restoration Acres: _____
 Freshwater Wetlands Acres: _____

How does the Project address key RMC Objectives? (Note: minimum 70% total score threshold)

Key RMC Objectives	Proposed Project <i>*Please provide longer responses on a separate page</i>
<p>1.0 Access (20%). How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?</p>	<p>Outreach will support local community engagement for LLAR projects, including the SELA Cultural Center, a new, river-adjacent community facility with approximately 80,000 sq. ft. of building programming and 108,000 sq. ft. of site programming (2.5 acres). The site design concept prioritizes usable outdoor space for arts and music programming, performance, and cultural events, and will include public plazas, outdoor amphitheater, and bio-filtration gardens in a park-like setting.</p>
<p>2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ) (30%). How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas. Examples are areas located in or adjacent to DACs as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool (at least 70% pollution/socio-economic burden of State) .</p>	<p>The LLARRP's Rio Hondo Signature Projects, including the SELA Cultural Center, are regional projects that will effect SELA communities and beyond. This region is one of the nation's most park-poor urban centers with many underserved minority neighborhoods and State defined DACs and SDACs. The area around the project has only 1.53 acres per 1,000 residents, and has some of the highest pollution and socio-economic burdens in the State.</p>
<p>3.0 Outreach (10%). How will project involve the community through outreach and education?</p>	<p>FLTS will focus on outlining a variety of inclusive strategies to educate and engage SELA Communities about the Cultural Center project's development process, proposed approach, and timeline. Also to help coordinate outreach among the various LLARRP Rio Hondo Signature Projects. FLTS will document and summarize outreach activities as a technical assistance doc to support other NGOs in SELA region.</p>
<p>4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit (30%). Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat?</p>	<p>The LA River/Rio Hondo Confluence area provides for the opportunity to establish plants along the LA River levee bank, such as at the Cultural Center Project. Additionally, biofiltration gardens and a subsurface cistern are part of the planned on-site stormwater management system to convey, clean, and store stormwater across the site and parking areas (for 300 vehicles) for the Project. Project will incorporate approximately 150 trees and a plant palette of native plants and resilient plant communities.</p>

<p>5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match (10%). Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.</p>	<p>Project partners include RMC, County of Los Angeles Flood Control District and City of South Gate. Outreach Plan will explore partnering with other local agencies, non-profits, and/or community groups.</p>
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Complete Project Description (can include description, Statement of Need, Goals and Objectives). Use another page if necessary.

The Rio Hondo Confluence Area Signature Project (RHCAP) was identified in the 2018 Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) and is located at a key opportunity area along the Lower Los Angeles River. Conceptual development is exploring options to connect communities to the RHCAP and create a key gathering place for Southeast Los Angeles. One of the projects in the RHCAP is the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center (SELA CC), a multi-disciplinary arts and culture facility that will be located in the City of South Gate in Southeast Los Angeles County, and is being led by RMC. The project will sit on a 7.8-acre site along the east bank of the Los Angeles River on a current County Flood Control District Maintenance Yard. The Cultural Center is envisioned as a public facility that offers spaces for art display and performance as well as arts education and spaces for community gatherings. The overall goal of the project is to create a facility that promotes and encourages participation in the arts and culture of the local community and beyond. The variety of artistic and community programs will foster opportunities for users to develop creative ideas and offer arts education opportunities to youth and adults.

The LLARRP was successful in being a community- and stakeholder-driven process, and subsequent development of projects should continue to engage and build trust within neighboring communities in accordance with LLARRP. Outreach amidst COVID-19 is requiring a rethinking of how to move forward with proper community input to ensure that residents and stakeholders feel they are part of the project process while providing a safe space for engagement for all. FLTS is proposing to develop a Covid-19 sensitive outreach plan that outlines a variety of strategies on how to notify stakeholders and hard-to-reach residents—particularly focusing on monolingual Spanish-language and bilingual, Spanish/English speakers — for RHCAP projects and specifically the SELA Cultural Center, to ensure the SELA community is engaged on development of these projects. Outreach activities will be documented and summarized into a report that can provide technical assistance to other local agencies and NGOs that are implementing LLARRP projects in Southeast LA Communities. Documentation will include list of key stakeholders and clear explanations of outreach activities and results.

Some ideas that have been successful in the past and ideas that have been developed/conceptualized as methods of engagement during times of coronavirus are: Social Media Townhalls, Online Surveys distribution, Project Briefings, Drive-In informational events, Round Table discussions, Tabling and Pop-up Events, Walk-and-Talk Site Tours, and Campaign-style outreach (such as lawn signs, use of QR codes, etc).

FLTS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving blighted, urban neighborhoods in the greater Los Angeles area one vacant space at a time. FLTS does this by creating much needed, community-designed greenspaces and engaging community members in the development of their communities. In order for the projects we build to be real catalysts for revitalization in these communities, FLTS ensures there is a holistic approach to community participation.

Also Provide:

- **Exhibit A) Tasklist and Timeline:** The tasklist should include a detailed description of each task and should include tasks for evaluation, monitoring, and assessment.
- **Exhibit B) Budget:** The budget will include any matching funds that may be used for the project. Please also identify any other grants for which you have applied for this project (include amount, potential funding agency, and contact).
See the RMC website for an example of a project budget and timeline at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>.
- **Exhibit C)** Lower LA River Revitalization Plan - Rio Hondo Signature Project
- **Exhibit D)** SELA Cultural Center site boundary
- **Exhibit E)** Disadvantaged Communities Report (source: Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool)

RMC Proposition 1 and 68 Very Small Grant Program

FY2020/21

Reviewer: Joseph Gonzalez

Applicant: From Lot to Spot

Project Name: Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR

Program Area: Rivers and Tributaries

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Funding Source: (highlight one)

Prop 1

Prop 68

Grant Program: (highlight one)

Lower LA River

Territory-wide

	Possible Score *,**	Reviewer Score	Reviewer Comments
Key RMC Objectives			
1.0 Access. How does your project improve access to open space and low impact recreation for all communities and promote healthy lifestyles?	2	2	Project focuses on providing community cultural and Arts resources and access, connecting to a regional greenway (LA River) and regional park (Hollydale Park). Project includes outdoor recreational amenities
2.0 Environmental Justice (EJ). How does your project address EJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs)? The RMC is committed to investments in DACs to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and high polluted areas.	3	3	Project focuses on engaging SELA communities, which includes many SDACs, in project development process of regional projects
3.0 Outreach. How will project involve the community through outreach and education?	1	1	Technical Assistance to provide Outreach support
4.0 Water/Habitat Benefit. Does your project support the creation, expansion, and/or improvement of public open space throughout the region? Would the project improve water quality supply, create, enhance or improve a reliable water supply and/or restore an important species and habitat?	3	1.5	Project focuses on providing community cultural and Arts resources and access, with some environmental benefits including water capture and habitat.
5.0 Stakeholders/Partners/Match. Does project encourage multi-jurisdictional and multi-beneficial planning and implementation projects? Provide any Letters of Support.	1	1	Project includes State (RMC and legislative offices), County (PW/FCD and Supervisors), local (city of south gate), and seeks to develop additional partners. Matching over 100% for additional outreach/project support (though matching RMC funding)
Subtotal	10	8.5	

*Scoring is either full, partial (50%), or no score (0).

**Scoring threshold for award is 70%

DAC Resources:

The statewide Median Household Income (MHI) for 2016 is \$63,783; therefore, the calculated DAC and SDAC thresholds are \$51,026 and \$38,270, respectively. To determine project's MHI, please utilize Department of Water Resources' DAC Mapping

Tool as a resource:

<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

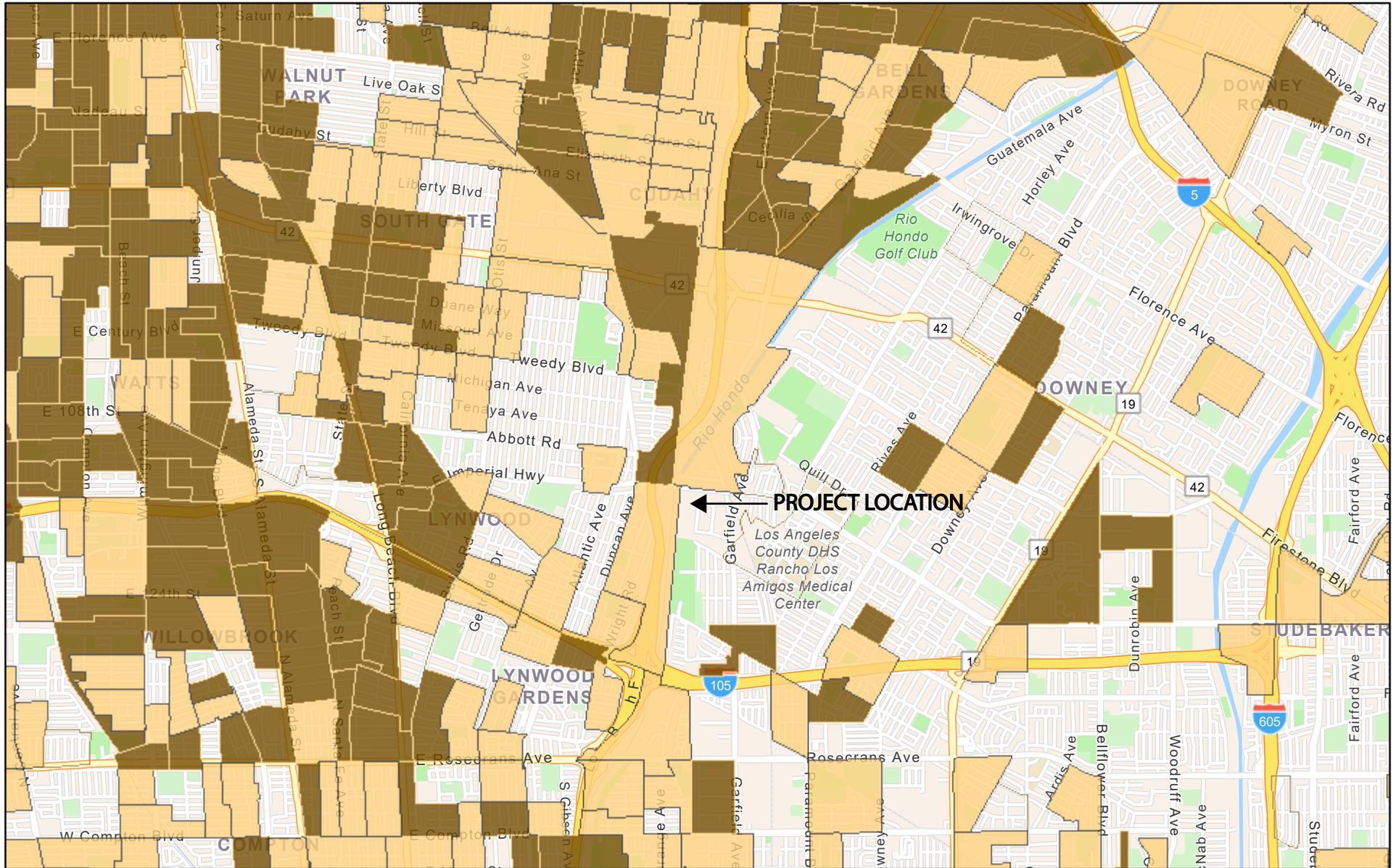
State Parks' Community Factfinder Toolkit

<https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>

Cal EnviroScreen 3.0

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

Exhibit F_SELA-CC_DAC Map



8/30/2020, 10:19:55 PM

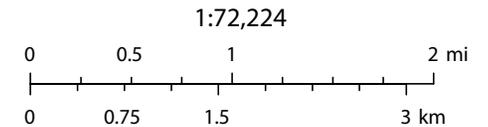
California Counties

Severely Disadvantaged Communities (MHI < \$38,270)

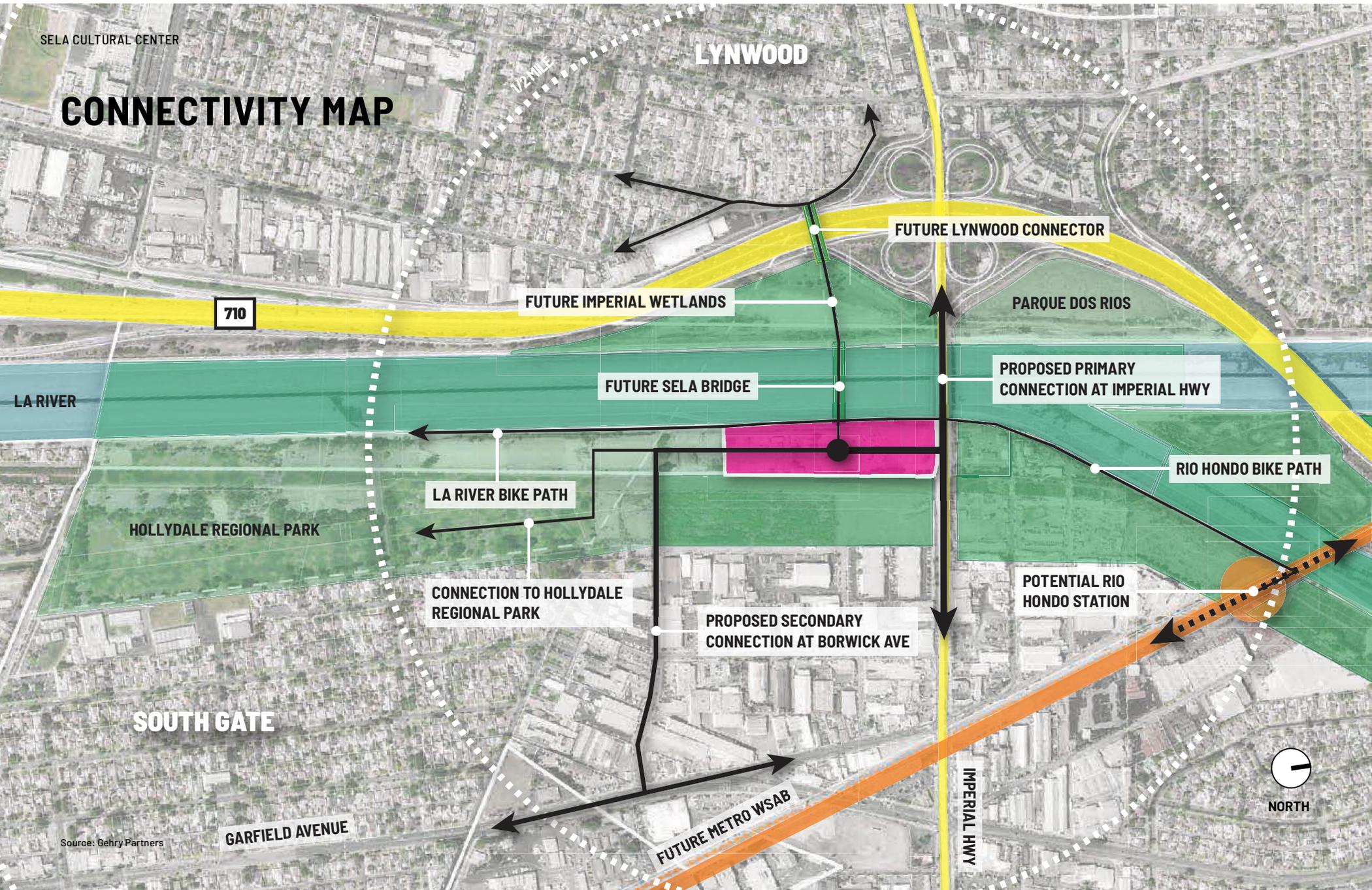
Disadvantaged Communities - Block Group 2016

Disadvantaged Communities (\$38,270 > MHI < \$51,026)

Data Not Available



U.S. Census Bureau. Contact: gis@water.ca.gov, U.S. Bureau of



Source: Gehry Partners

September 21, 2020 – Item 15

RESOLUTION 2020-35

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A VERY SMALL PROPOSITION 68 GRANT TO FROM LOT TO SPOT FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES (SELA) CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AND LOWER LA RIVER PROJECTS

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (“Proposition 68”); and

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, The RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for more reliable water supplies, restoration of important species and habitat, more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project meets the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The grantee has requested a grant from Proposition 68, Chapter 7, Section 80100(a)(1)(B) or Chapter 8, Section 80110(b)(6) of the Water Code; and

WHEREAS, The proposed provides technical assistance to disadvantaged communities pursuant to Proposition 68, Section 80008(b)(1)

WHEREAS, This action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

- 1 FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
- 2 FINDS that the Proposition 68 RMC Grant Program is consistent with the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (“Proposition 68”), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
- 3 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 68.
- 4 FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan.
- 5 FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan as adopted by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy;
- 6 FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 7 ADOPTS the staff report dated September 21, 2020.
- 8 AUTHORIZES a technical assistance grant award to the non-profit organization, From Lot to Spot (FLTS), for a total amount of \$50,000 for the Community Engagement for SELA Cultural Center/LLAR.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on September 21, 2020.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General